

## Corsica River Targeted Watershed Monthly Report

January 2006

### Project Purpose

- The Corsica Watershed Project is a pilot program to develop best business practices and implement the processes, partnerships, assessment, and implementation tools needed to meet that threshold for restoring a single sub-watershed of the Chesapeake Bay.
- The end point is to attain the new State water quality standards and remove the Corsica River from the Impaired Waters List (303(d) list) with an initial focus on nutrients and sediment, concurrent with planning and assessment to address the other impairments.

### STATUS: Implementation Activities

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Overall Goal</u>	<u>% Towards Goal</u>	<u>Issues</u>	<u>Point of Contact</u>
1	Cover Crops/Small grain	458 acres of cover crops/1157 acres of Small Grain Enhancement	6000 acres/yr. (cover crops and small grain enhancement)	22% of Cover crop goal 58% of Small Grain Enhancement	No award of 319 grant by EPA, providing staff support for program at the SCD	John Rhoderick
2	Oysters	77,588 bushels of shell planted on 5.6 acres with 5.6 million oyster spat	10 acres of oyster bar	56.00%		Charlie Frentz
3	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)	9 sites were planted in Spring 2005 to test survival, none were successful	10 acres	0.00%	Transplants did not survive; presently analyzing why; will continue to evaluate best potential locations for plantings	Chris Heyer

### STATUS: Monitoring Activities

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Point of Contact</u>
4	Non-Tidal	5 sites in the Corsica were assessed using MBSS methods. 2 sites were surveyed for evidence of rare, threatened or endangered freshwater mussel species.	Sampling program is being developed to determine distribution of freshwater mussels in Corsica.	Ron Klauda, Niles Primrose
5	Non-Tidal	Interagency meetings occurred to coordinate monitoring activities (DNR, MDE)	Ongoing	
6	Tidal	MGS created bottom maps of Corsica to guide oyster and SAV restoration	Ongoing	Chris Heyer
7	Tidal	Continuous water monitoring has been deployed in several locations	Discussion ongoing whether to re-locate some monitoring instrumentation to existing oyster bars	Chris Heyer

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8	Tidal	<p>Test areas were planted with SAV in both 2004 and 2005. The 2004 test sites survived but did not return in 2005. The 2005 test sites failed due to poor water quality and perhaps other reasons-being investigated</p>	<p>Large scale restoration techniques are being developed. Incorporating use of bottom mapping to target suitable areas</p>	Chris Heyer
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**STATUS: Funding Activities**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	
Proposed Federal Budget	\$6,000,000 Enhancement to EPA's Budget targeted for the Corsica River Pilot Project	Pending	These funds would be used for wetland restoration, stream restoration and riparian buffer and reforestation activities.
9 Proposed State Budget	Corsica River Targeted Watershed Project State Budget 2007-2011	Pending	This project includes funding and staffing for upgrading an existing sewage treatment plants, managing stormwater runoff, stream and wetland restoration, implementing a variety of agricultural best management practices including cover crops and horse pasture management and evaluating the effectiveness of these practices.

**2007-2011**

<u>Agency Needs</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Point of Contact</u>
DNR - includes 4 positions	\$6,501,455	Frank Dawson
MDA - includes 2 positions	\$1,450,581	John Rhoderick
MDE - includes 2 positions	\$10,895,525	Richard Eskin
MDP - includes 1 position	\$58,325	Tay Harris
<b>Total Budget Request for 2007-2011</b>	<b>\$18,905,886</b>	

**2007**

<u>Agency Needs</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Point of Contact</u>
DNR - includes 4 positions	\$1,054,453	Frank Dawson
MDA - includes 1 positions	\$331,163	John Rhoderick
MDE - includes 2 positions	\$1,519,178	Richard Eskin
MDP - includes 1 position	\$58,325	Tay Harris
<b>Total Budget Request for 2007 ONLY</b>	<b>\$2,963,119</b>	

	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Funder</u>	<u>Point of Contact</u>
10	Grant Application	Stormwater Management	Awarded	\$100,000	Chesapeake Bay Trust	John McCoy
11	Grant Application	Wetlands restoration, Stormwater management, Urban reforestation	Full proposal submitted 1/27/06	\$1,000,000	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	John McCoy
12	Grant Application	Tidal Wetlands	consideration delayed until next year pending reauthorization of funding	\$536,250	Army Corps of Engineers	Kevin Smith
13	Grant Application	Agricultural Strategy	Submitted 8/05 still awaiting EPA award	\$212,998	U.S. EPA 319 program	John Rhoderick

**STATUS: Coordination/Communication Activities**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Point of Contact</u></b>
Corsica River Water Festival	Community based outreach event on the banks of the	Planning tentative date 5/4-5/5	Elena Takaki

Met with the Senior staff and County Administrator for Queen Anne's County to brief them on the project and seek continued support

Met with the Director of Queen Annes's County Department of Public Works and Manager for Centreville seeking support for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation proposal.

Met with the Queen Anne's Soil Conservation District to brief the Board of Directors and the staff on the Project.

Fourth implementation meeting - Attendance - 30 people representing 2 state agencies, the County, the Town of Centreville, 2 Universities, 4 NGO's and 3 citizens.

**Activities Scheduled for February 2006**

February 7th Project briefing with Region III EPA Water Division staff

February 14th Corsica Implementers Meeting

**Activities for Spring 2006**

Chesapeake Bay Trust grant launch

319 grant awards expected

Restoration activities to begin on the Riggs Farm

Corsica River Water Festival in May

**Governor Ehrlich Action Items**

Approval of 2007 Budget Request for Corsica Targeted Watershed Project